

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-29 are pending in this application. Claims 13, 14, 16 and 17 are allowed. Claims 2, 4-7, 9-11, 26 and 29 were indicated as allowable if rewritten to in independent form and to overcome the section 112 rejections. These claims have been so rewritten.

Mabusth

Claims 1, 3, 8 and 12 were rejected as anticipated by Mabusth. Mabusth shows a touchpad device which has a flat top portion, and an angled bottom portion, which was asserted by the office action to show the contour set forth in the claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to set forth that the device is a mouse, and that the contour is between two buttons of the mouse. Mabusth does not show a mouse, instead showing an alternate pointing device. There is no motivation shown in Mabusth to combine it with a mouse, in particular combining to place the contour, with the solid state sensor, between the buttons of a mouse. Accordingly, claim 1 as amended is now believed allowable. Claims 3 and 8 depend from claim 1, and are believed allowable for the same reasons.

Claim 12 has been amended to set forth that a portion of the housing separates the electrodes. This is shown, for example, in Figs. 1 and 5a-5c and the accompanying text, and thus does not add new matter. Mabusth shows a continuous touchpad surface, and does not show or suggest separating individual electrodes with a portion of the housing. Accordingly, claim 12, as amended, is believed allowable.

Vaghefi

Claims 18 - 24 were rejected as anticipated by Vaghefi. Vaghefi shows a child's mouse in the shape of a turtle, which has interchangeable parts so its appearance can be changed. The mouse has flashing lights and sounds so that normal operation of the buttons causes the production of sounds which depend on the shape applied to the mouse.

Claim 18 has been amended to set forth a scrolling activator which provides a scrolling signal, which is not shown in Vaghefi. Claim 18 has been further amended to set forth that the sounds correspond to an aspect of the scrolling signal (e.g., the speed of scrolling).

Vaghefi does not show or suggest this. The intent of Vaghefi is to provide sounds which vary with the shape of the device, not feedback based on variance in a function of the input signals, and certainly not a scrolling signal, since no scrolling signal is shown. No new matter is added since this sound corresponding to scrolling is described on page 16, lines 1-11 of the application. Accordingly, claim 18 as amended, and dependent claim 19, are now believed allowable.

Claim 20 recites a notification for an event external to the computer system. This was rejected, apparently on the basis that the mouse sounds and lights are external to the computer system. Claim 20 has been amended to set forth that notification to a user is responsive to an event received by said computer system over a network. Accordingly, claim 20 as amended is believed to distinguish Vaghefi. Vaghefi does not show or suggest providing such a notification from a network to the computer system in the pointing device. Claims 21-24, which are dependent on claim 20, are now believed allowable for the same reasons.

Stephan et al.

Claims 15, 25, 27 and 28 were rejected as anticipated by Stephan et al. Stephan shows a touch pad input device with a main touch pad, and two narrow touch pads on the side and bottom for scrolling and panning.

Claims 15, 25 and 28 have been amended to set forth that the input device is a mouse, which is not shown by Stephan. They have been further amended to say that the mouse has first and second buttons, and that the scrolling sensor (claim 15) or solid-state touch sensor (claim 25, 28) are mounted between the buttons. This arrangement is not shown or suggested by Stephan.

Claim 27 was rejected, but depends from claim 26, which was indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form, which it has been. Although Stephan shows a scrolling signal, and thus is pertinent to the limitation of claim 27, it does not show the contour set forth in claim 26. Accordingly, based on the amendment to claim 26, claim 27 is also believed to be now allowable.

Appl. No. 10/025,838
Amdt. dated March 15, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 15, 2003

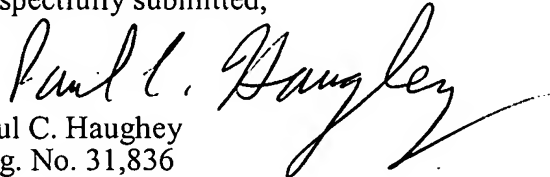
PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,


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